Special air facilities for foreign tourists

726. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to introduce a special facility during air-travel in order to attract foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely number of foreign tourists visiting India annually after extension of the said facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) In order to attract foreign tourists, National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) has launched special Holiday packages known as Air India Flyaways. These packages are saleable in the Domestic as well as International markets. NACIL is also offering attractive promotional fares including off-season fares during off-peak period from all its overseas destinations to promote inbound tourism to India. Effective 1st October, 2007, the following additional facilities have been made available:—

(i) Passengers holding holiday packages tickets in economy class can get their tickets upgraded to executive class on payment of applicable difference in fares at NACIL city/ airport booking counters. (ii) Re-routing of the return segment of the holiday package tickets.

(c) While a reliable estimation on the tourists likely to visit India after providing such facilities may not be feasible, during the period January to October, 2007 about 3.89 million foreign tourists visited India.

National Fund for Airport Development

727. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has created the National Fund for Airport Development for the purpose of supporting the Bangalore International Airport that is under implementation as also the Advance Development Fee Rules in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether rules laying down the modalities for passing on the fee collected in respect of the Bangalore International Airport are yet to be framed; and

(d) if so, the details and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Role of private operators for security at airports

728. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to depend on private operators for security of the airports at different places;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is considered safe particularly in view of increasing terrorism all over the world and particularly in our country?